

Columbia University  
in the City of New York  
[NEW YORK 27, N. Y.]

DEPARTMENT OF ZOOLOGY

5/22/46

Dear Josh -

Wilson informs me that our reprint order has been increased to 500. The Dept. will buy for us 125, 25 of which we must give them. The remaining 375 we'll have to buy ourselves. All will be with covers. Reprint without a cover comes apart too fast.

Did you see the paper in Trans. N Y Acad Sci. about cancer as a cellular adaptation? Its not inconsistent with your ideas.

Before I forget the beer list had your name next to 4 bottles which were crossed out. Bertha said you never paid her. Did you leave the dough with me or someone

else?

PNAS fixed up the errors in our paper & I presume will charge them to us. I'll see what the Dept. will do. I thought we had talked over the position effect possibility. As I remember we decided that when you start to consider very small inversions & duplications you get into the problem of just what is the "true" or point mutation — submicroscopic or unobservable inversions or duplications? I think there is a real point here because we have preconceived & undemonstrated notions about another type of change involving what we glibly call gene (molecular) alterations. I don't know how to distinguish the 2 classes. However,

a cytological study should be made to eliminate gross obvious chromosomal rearrangements. We agreed to do that. I think I'll take a flier this month if I get time.

The Colloquium was all right but I didn't enjoy the  $\Sigma$  CSH talk very much. M<sup>c</sup>Clintock & Luria were the only live people. The only trouble with the Colloquium was that we neither had completed the <sup>image</sup> Kellbrink nor shown it to be impossible to perform. Our situation is this. We can coat cells in sloppy agar but we have not been able to maintain a dependent strain long enough to make the test. Dep. strains isolated into eggmeat  $\pm$  uracil test dependent the first few days & are thenceforth independent.

What does the Delbrück show that this does not, except quantitative expression? We now find that serial transfer on Septicium medium + uracil maintains dependents & are making new isolates today. If we don't get our variance test done by June, we will drop the problem.

During June we plan to work on *E. coli*. I agree the multiple mutation problem is of utmost importance.

I hope to get to Yale the 12th & will probably bring the Greggs along. I want to discuss my CSH Symp. talk with you for I'd like to refer to bacterial back mutation. I'm afraid my talk will be rife with preliminary data & suggestions.

Glad to hear you are progressing with syntrophism. Plug away at it.

Regards  
Sincerely  
Francis.